

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

|               |   |                 |     |
|---------------|---|-----------------|-----|
| Plaintiff(s), | ) | No. C           | MEJ |
| v.            | ) | ORDER SETTING   |     |
|               | ) | CASE MANAGEMENT |     |
|               | ) | CONFERENCE.     |     |
| Defendant(s). | ) | [ALL CASES]     |     |

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16 and Civil L. R. 16-10, a Case Management Conference will be held in this case before the Honorable Maria-Elena James on Thursday, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ at 10:00 A.M. in Courtroom B, 15th Floor, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California, 94102.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, within 120 days of filing the complaint, and in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 4, Plaintiff(s) shall complete service of the complaint on at least one Defendant and file either a waiver of service or a certification of service of process. Failure to file the waiver of service or a certification of service may result in issuance by the Court of an Order to Show Cause why the complaint should not be dismissed without prejudice pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 4.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Counsel shall meet and confer prior to the Case Management Conference and file, no later than seven days before the Case Management Conference, a Joint Case Management Conference Statement in compliance with Civil L. R. 16-9 addressing the information contained in the Joint Case Management Statement and [proposed] Case Management Order form, enclosed herewith. In addition, the parties must be prepared to knowledgeably discuss with the Court any of the other subjects listed in Fed. R. Civ. P. 16 or in Civil L. R. 16-10.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that motions for summary judgment shall be accompanied by a joint statement of undisputed facts in compliance with Civil L. R. 56-2(b).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that seven days prior to the case management conference, each party shall file the consent/declination form, enclosed herewith, consenting to Judge James' jurisdiction or requesting reassignment to a district court judge. In the event that Defendant(s) file a Motion to Dismiss, pursuant to

1 Fed. R. Civ. P. 12, Defendant(s) shall file the consent/request for reassignment form at the time the motion is  
 2 filed and Plaintiff(s) shall file the consent/request for reassignment form seven days thereafter.

3 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in all “E-Filing” cases, when filing papers that require the**  
 4 **Court to take any action (e.g. motions, meet and confer letters, administrative requests), the parties**  
 5 **shall, in addition to filing papers electronically, lodge with chambers a printed copy of the papers by**  
 6 **the close of the next court day following the day the papers are filed electronically. These printed**  
 7 **copies shall be marked “Chambers Copy” and shall be submitted to the Clerk’s Office in an**  
 8 **envelope clearly marked “Magistrate Judge Maria-Elena James”, case number and “E-Filing**  
 9 **Chambers Copy.” Parties shall not file a paper copy of any document with the Clerk’s Office that**  
 10 **has already been filed electronically.**

11 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each attorney of record in all “E-Filing” cases is obligated to  
 12 become an ECF User as defined in General Order No. 45 and be assigned a user ID and password for  
 13 access to the system upon designation of the action as being subject to ECF. Registration shall be on a form  
 14 prescribed by the Clerk. Attorneys of record who fail to register timely shall be subject to such sanctions as  
 15 may be imposed by the Court.

16 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff(s) shall serve copies of this Order, the Joint Case  
 17 Management Statement and [proposed] Case Management Order form, the consent/request for reassignment  
 18 form and the attached Discovery and Dispute Procedures on all parties to this action, and on any parties  
 19 subsequently joined, in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 and 5. Following service of process on  
 20 Defendant(s), Plaintiff(s) shall file a certificate of service with the Clerk of this Court.

21 Failure to comply with this Order or the Civil Local Rules of this Court may result in sanctions,  
 22 including the dismissal of the complaint or the entry of a default. Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(f), Civil L. R. 1-4.

24 Date: December 13, 2002

/s/

25 Maria-Elena James  
 26 United States Magistrate Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Plaintiff(s), ) Case No. MEJ  
vs. ) JOINT CASE MANAGEMENT  
Defendant(s). ) STATEMENT AND [PROPOSED]  
 ) CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER.  
 )

The parties to the above-entitled action submit this Joint Case Management Statement and Proposed Case Management Order and request the Court to adopt it as the Case Management Order in this case, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16 and Civil L.R.16-10(b).

## JOINT CASE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

- i. Description of the case: (The parties may attach additional pages to this statement.)
1. A brief description of the events underlying the action:

## 2. The principal factual issues which the parties dispute

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 3. The principal legal issues which the parties dispute:  
3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 \_\_\_\_\_  
5 \_\_\_\_\_  
6 \_\_\_\_\_  
7 \_\_\_\_\_  
8 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 \_\_\_\_\_  
10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 4. Other issues [*e.g. service of process, personal jurisdiction, subject matter jurisdiction or venue*]  
12 which remain unresolved for the reason stated below and the parties' proposed resolution:  
13 \_\_\_\_\_  
14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15 \_\_\_\_\_  
16 \_\_\_\_\_  
17 \_\_\_\_\_  
18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 5. The parties who have not been served and the reasons for said lack of service:  
20 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 \_\_\_\_\_  
24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 6. The additional parties whom the below-specified parties intend to join and the intended  
26 time frame for such joinder:  
27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 \_\_\_\_\_

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 B. Consent to Magistrate Judge for Trial:

9 1. The parties consent to assignment of this case to a United States Magistrate Judge for Trial: \_\_\_\_\_

10 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

11 The consent/request for reassignment form is attached to the back of this sample joint case  
12 management statement and order. The consent/request for reassignment form was received by  
13 Defendant with service of process of the complaint. Each party shall file the signed form  
14 consenting to Magistrate Judge James' jurisdiction or requesting reassignment to a district  
15 court judge no later than the filing deadline for the joint case management statement  
16 assigned by the initial case management schedule.

17  
18 C. Alternative Dispute Resolution:

19 The parties have discussed and request the following court ADR process: Nonbinding Arbitration,  
20 Early Neutral Evaluation, Mediation, or Early Settlement *[If Nonbinding Arbitration, Early Neutral*  
21 *Evaluation or Mediation, state the expected or scheduled date for the ADR session]:*

22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 \_\_\_\_\_

24  
25  
26 **[PROPOSED] CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER**

27 *[Counsel shall fill in the stipulated dates for the matters below]*

28 Pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 16, the Court conducted a case management conference on

1 \_\_\_\_\_ and ORDERS as follows:

2

3 A. ADR Program:

4 1. The parties are hereby referred to \_\_\_\_\_ [*ADR selection above*].

5 2. The parties shall file their ADR certification by the date assigned by the initial case

6 management schedule received from the Clerk of the Court, pursuant to Civil L.R. 16-8.

7

8 B. Jury or Court Trial:

9 1. The parties shall designate in **both their pleadings and joint case management**

10 **statement** whether the trial requested is a jury trial or court trial [*designate one below*]:

11 Plaintiff requests a jury trial \_\_\_\_\_

12 Defendant requests a jury trial \_\_\_\_\_

13 Plaintiff requests a court trial \_\_\_\_\_

14 Defendant requests a court trial \_\_\_\_\_

15

16 C. Pretrial Motions:

17 1. All pretrial motions shall be filed in accordance with Civil L.R. 7. A motion shall be noticed pursuant

18 to Civil L.R. 7-2 without calling the Court. Civil law and motion is heard on Thursday mornings at

19 10:00 a.m.

20

21 D. Discovery:

22 1. The parties shall abide by Judge James' standing order regarding discovery and dispute procedures.

23

24

25 E. Disclosure of Expert Witnesses:

26 1. Any party wishing to present expert witness testimony with respect to a claim or defense shall serve

27 on all other parties the name, address, qualifications, resume, and a written report which complies with

28 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2)(B) on or before \_\_\_\_\_ (210 days before trial).

1 2. This disclosure must be made with respect to a person who is either (a) specifically retained or  
2 specially employed to provide expert testimony pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 702 or (b) a  
3 regular employee or agent or treating physician who may be called to provide expert opinion  
4 testimony.

5 3. **A party or counsel has a continuing duty to supplement the disclosure of expert**  
6 **witnesses when required under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(e)(1).**

7 F. **Rebuttal Expert Witnesses:**

8 1. If the testimony of the expert is intended solely to contradict or rebut opinion testimony on the same  
9 subject matter identified by another party, the party proffering a rebuttal expert shall make the  
10 disclosures required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2)(B), no later than \_\_\_\_\_ (200  
11 days before the trial).

12 G. **Limitation on Testimony by Expert Witnesses:**

13 1. Unless the parties enter into a written stipulation otherwise, upon timely objection, an expert witness  
14 shall be precluded from testifying about any actions or opinions not disclosed prior to the expert's  
15 deposition. This is to ensure that all factual material upon which expert opinion may be based and all  
16 tests and reports are completed prior to the expert deposition.  
17 2. Unless application is made prior to the close of expert discovery, each party is limited to calling only  
18 one expert witness in each discipline involved in the case.  
19 3. Any party objecting to the admissibility of the testimony of person disclosed as an expert witness must  
20 file a written motion *in limine* to exclude the testimony no later than the deadline set in this order for  
21 filing motions *in limine*.

22 H. **Close of Discovery:**

23 1. All discovery, including depositions of expert witnesses, must be completed by \_\_\_\_\_ (185  
24 days before trial).  
25 2. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b) and Civil L.R. 26-2, a discovery request or

1 stipulation that calls for responses or depositions after the discovery cut-off date are not enforceable  
2 except by order of the Court and upon a showing of good cause.

3. Pursuant to Civil L.R. 26-2, no motions to compel discovery may be filed later than 10 days after the  
4 discovery cut-off date.

5

6 I. Dispositive Motions:

7 1. Pursuant to Civil L.R. 7-2, all dispositive motions shall be filed, served and noticed by  
8 \_\_\_\_\_ (155 days prior to trial). The parties shall file a joint statement of undisputed facts  
9 pursuant to Civil L.R. 56-2(b) when filing a motion for summary judgment or summary adjudication.  
10 2. The Court shall hear dispositive motions on \_\_\_\_\_ ( 120 prior days to trial, during the  
11 Court's Thursday law and motion calendar) at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom B, 15th Floor of the Federal  
12 Building, located at 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California.

13

14 J. Exchange and filing of Trial Papers:

15 1. By \_\_\_\_\_ (60 days before trial) lead counsel who will try the case shall meet and confer  
16 with respect to the preparation and content of the joint pretrial conference statement and shall  
17 exchange (but not file or lodge) the papers described in paragraph 2 below.  
18 2. By \_\_\_\_\_ ( 45 days before trial) counsel shall file the papers described in Federal Rule  
19 of Civil Procedure 26(a)(3) and a joint pretrial conference statement including the following:  
20 (A) Substance of the Action: A brief description of the substance of claims and defenses which remain  
21 to be decided.  
22 (B) Relief Prayed: A detailed statement of all the relief claimed, particularly itemizing all elements of  
23 damages claimed as well as witnesses, documents or other evidentiary material to be presented  
24 concerning the amount of damages.  
25 (C) Undisputed Facts: A plain and concise statement of all relevant facts not reasonably disputable, as  
26 well as which facts parties will stipulate for incorporation into the trial record without the necessity of  
27 supporting testimony or exhibits.  
28 (D) Disputed Factual Issues: A plain and concise statement of all disputed factual issues which remain

1 to be decided.

2 (E) Agreed Statement: A statement assessing whether all or part of the action may be presented upon  
3 an agreed statement of facts.

4 (F) Stipulations: A statement of stipulations requested or proposed for pretrial or trial purposes.

5 (G) Witness list: A list of all witnesses to be called for trial. The parties shall submit a page-length  
6 detailed summary of the substance of the proposed testimony of each witness, which shall also specify  
7 to which disputed fact the testimony relates and an estimate of the time required for direct and cross  
8 examination of each prospective witness.

9 (H) Exhibit list: A list of all exhibits to be offered at trial. The exhibit list shall list each proposed exhibit  
10 by its number or alphabetical letter, description and sponsoring witness. All documents shall be  
11 authenticated prior to trial.

12 (I) Estimated Time of Trial: An estimate of the number of hours needed for the presentation of each  
13 party's case.

14 (J) Settlement: A statement summarizing the status of the parties' settlement negotiations.

15 **No party shall be permitted to offer any witness or exhibit in its case in chief that is not**  
16 **disclosed in its witness or exhibit list without leave of the Court for good cause shown.**

17 3. Motions *in limine*: Counsel are directed to meet and confer to resolve any evidentiary  
18 disputes prior to filing motions in limine. Any motions *in limine* shall be filed \_\_\_\_\_ (45  
19 days prior to trial). Any Opposition to motions *in limine* shall be filed \_\_\_\_\_ (38 days prior  
20 to trial). These matters will be deemed submitted on the papers without oral argument, unless the  
21 Court orders otherwise.

22 4. Trial Briefs: Counsel shall file trial briefs setting forth the applicable legal standard, pursuant to Ninth  
23 Circuit authority, all significant disputed issues of law, including foreseeable procedural and evidentiary  
24 issues by \_\_\_\_\_ (30 days prior to trial).

25 5. Joint Proposed Voir Dire (Jury Trial Only): Counsel should submit a joint set of requested voir dire  
26 to be posed by the Court by \_\_\_\_\_ (30 days prior to trial). Any voir dire questions on  
27 which counsel cannot agree shall be submitted separately by \_\_\_\_\_ (30 days prior to trial).  
28 Counsel will be allowed brief follow-up voir dire after the Court's questioning.

1. 6. Joint Proposed Jury Instructions (Jury Trial Only): Jury instructions § 1.01 through § 2.02 and § 3.01  
2. through § 3.15 from the Manual of Model Civil Jury Instructions for the Ninth Circuit (1998 Edition)  
3. will be given absent objection. Counsel shall submit a joint set of additional proposed jury  
4. instructions by \_\_\_\_\_ (30 days prior to trial). . The instructions shall be ordered in a  
5. logical sequence, together with a table of contents. Any instruction on which counsel cannot agree  
6. shall be marked as “disputed,” and shall be included within the jointly submitted instructions and  
7. accompanying table of contents, in the place where the party proposing the instruction believes it  
8. should be given. Argument and authority for and against each disputed instruction shall be included as  
9. part of the joint submission, on separate sheets directly following the disputed instruction. The Court  
10. prefers that all jury instructions conform to the Manual of Model Civil Jury Instructions for the Ninth  
11. Circuit.

12. If possible, counsel shall deliver to the Courtroom Deputy a copy of their joint proposed jury  
13. instructions on a computer disk in WordPerfect format. The disk label shall include the name of the  
14. parties, the case number and be entitled “Proposed Jury Instructions.”

15. At the close of Defendant’s case in chief, the Court shall hear oral argument on the disputed jury  
16. instructions and will then render its rulings.

17. 7. Proposed Verdict Forms, Joint or Separate (Jury Trial Only): Counsel shall submit any joint  
18. proposed verdict forms and shall submit their separate verdict forms by \_\_\_\_\_ (30 days prior  
19. to trial).

20. Whenever possible, counsel shall deliver to the Courtroom Deputy a copy of their joint proposed  
21. verdict forms on a computer disk in WordPerfect. The disk label shall include the name of the parties,  
22. the case number and be entitled “Proposed Verdict Forms.”

23. 8. Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law (Court Trial Only): Counsel shall submit joint  
24. proposed findings of facts by \_\_\_\_\_ (30 days prior to trial). Counsel shall submit  
25. separately a copy of their disputed findings of fact and conclusions of law by \_\_\_\_\_ (30  
26. days prior to trial).

27. Whenever possible, counsel shall deliver to the Courtroom Deputy a copy of their joint proposed  
28. findings of fact on a computer disk in WordPerfect. The disk label shall include the name of the

1 parties, the case number and be entitled "Joint Proposed Findings of Facts."

2

3 K. Pretrial Conference:

4 1. On \_\_\_\_\_ (30 days prior to trial, during the Court's Thursday law and motion calendar  
5 is held on Thursdays) the Court shall hold a pretrial conference at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom B, 15th  
6 Floor of the Federal Building, located at 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California. Lead  
7 counsel who will try the case must attend the pretrial conference. The purpose of the pretrial  
8 conference is for the Court to rule on any issues raised in the final pretrial conference statement,  
9 motions *in limine*, and to discuss the trial of the case.

10

11 L. Final Pretrial Conference:

12 1. On \_\_\_\_\_ (4 days prior to trial, during the Court's Thursday law and motion calendar)  
13 the Court shall hold a final pretrial conference to address any outstanding trial issues.

14

15 M. Trial Date:

16 1. The trial shall commence [with jury selection taking place] on \_\_\_\_\_ (Trial  
17 schedule: Monday through Thursday, at 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.). The trial shall last \_\_\_\_\_  
18 days.

19 2. For any documents, including the deposition of a witness testifying at trial, which will be shown  
20 presented to a witness **but will not be admitted into evidence**, counsel shall bring the original plus  
21 three clean copies of the documents. The original document will be handed to the Court during  
22 testimony, and the clean copies of the document will be given to the witness during the examination  
23 and to opposing counsel.

24 3. Counsel shall maintain their own exhibits during trial. Exhibits are to be premarked with exhibit tags  
25 stapled to the upper lefthand corner. If a photo or chart is being used as an exhibit, the exhibit tag  
26 should be placed on the back side of the exhibit. **The Court will only admit premarked exhibits**  
27 **which were listed on the earlier filed exhibit list.**

28 Plaintiff shall mark the exhibits numerically; Defendant shall mark the exhibits alphabetically.

1 The exhibit markers shall each contain the name and number of the case, the number or alphabetical  
2 letter of the exhibit, and blank spaces to accommodate the date admitted and the Deputy Clerk's  
3 initials.

4 4. On the day of trial, counsel shall bring the original premarked exhibits, a copy of the premarked  
5 exhibits for opposing counsel and two binders which contain a copy of each side's premarked exhibits  
6 for the Court. **The premarked exhibit binders are to be designated with label dividers.** The  
7 premarked exhibit binders will be given to the Courtroom Deputy on the morning of the trial.

8  
9 N. **Jury Selection:**

10 1. The Jury Commissioner will summon 20 to 25 prospective jurors. The Courtroom Deputy will select  
11 their names at random and seat them in the courtroom in the order in which their names are called.

12 Voir dire will be asked of sufficient venire persons that eight (or more for a lengthy trial) will  
13 remain after all peremptory challenges and an anticipated number of hardship dismissals and cause  
14 challenges have been made.

15 The Court will then take cause challenges, and discuss hardship claims from the individual  
16 jurors, at side bar. The Court will inform the attorneys which hardship claims and cause challenges  
17 will be granted, but will not announce those dismissals until the process is completed. Each attorney  
18 may then list in writing up to three peremptory challenges. The attorneys will review each other's lists  
19 and then submit them to the clerk.

20 Then, from the list of jurors in numerical order, the Court will strike the persons with  
21 meritorious hardships, those excused for cause, and those challenged peremptorily. The Court will  
22 then call the first eight people in numerical sequence remaining. These people will be the jury. All  
23 jurors remaining at the close of the case will deliberate. There are no alternates.

24  
25 O. **Sanctions:**

26 Failure to comply with this Order is cause for sanctions under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(f).

1  
2  
3 P. Transcripts:

4 Counsel who wants to receive a daily transcript shall contact Robert Stuart, Supervisor Court  
5 Reporting Services, at (415) 522-2079, at least ten days in advance of the trial date.

6 If any video or tape recording equipment or demonstrative devices will be used, a signed  
7 order will need to be obtained at least ten days in advance of the trial date for the items to clear  
8 security.

9  
10 Q. Questions:

11 All questions regarding these instructions should be directed to Brenda Tolbert, Courtroom  
12 Deputy Clerk to Judge James, at (415) 522-4708.

13  
14 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Plaintiff's Counsel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

16 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Plaintiff's Counsel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

18 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant's Counsel \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

20 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant's Counsel \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name

IT IS SO ORDERED.

23 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

24 Maria-Elena James  
United States Magistrate Judge

1

2 **NOTICE OF TRIAL ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE AND**

3 **ORDER TO FILE CONSENT/REQUEST FOR REASSIGNMENT FORM**

4

5 This civil case was randomly assigned to United States Magistrate Judge Maria-Elena James for all  
6 purposes including trial. In accordance with Title 28, U.S.C. § 636(c), the Magistrate Judges of this District  
7 Court are designated to conduct any and all proceedings in a civil case, including a jury or non-jury trial, and  
8 to order the entry of final judgment, upon the consent of the parties. An appeal from a judgment entered by  
9 Magistrate Judge James may be taken directly to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in  
10 the same manner as an appeal from any other judgment of a district court.

11 You have the right to have your case assigned to a United States District Judge for trial and  
12 disposition. Attached is the form which allows you to either consent to, or decline Judge James' jurisdiction  
13 and request reassignment to a District Judge.

14 Each party shall sign and file the consent/declination form, either consenting to Judge James'  
15 jurisdiction, or requesting reassignment to a District Judge, no later than the filing deadline for the joint case  
16 management statement assigned by the initial case management schedule.

17 IT IS SO ORDERED.

18 Date: December 13, 2002

19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 Maria-Elena James  
21 United States Magistrate Judge  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

STANDING ORDER RE: DISCOVERY AND DISPUTE PROCEDURES FOR CASES  
ASSIGNED OR REFERRED TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE MARIA-ELENA JAMES

In ALL CASES, except those categories of cases listed in Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(a)(1)(E), assigned to Magistrate Judge Maria Elena James for trial or referred to Magistrate Judge Maria-Elena James for purposes of discovery, the parties shall follow the following procedures:

## Discovery & Disclosure Dispute Procedures:

The Discovery and Disclosure Dispute Procedures inform a *pro se* party or counsel of the specific procedures required by Judge James before filing a formal discovery motion, pursuant to Civil L. R. 7, or when requesting a telephonic discovery conference, pursuant to Paragraphs 4 or 5 below.

Counsel and *pro se* parties are required to follow the Discovery and Disclosure Dispute Procedures  
herein to resolve all discovery and disclosure disputes.

1. Parties (or counsel) shall propound disclosures and discovery in accordance with the Fed. R. Civ. P. 26, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36 and the Civil L. R. 26, 30, 33, 34 and 36. All requests for protective orders must comply with Civil L. R. 79-5. A copy of the Civil Local Rules for the Northern District of California is available at the Office of the Clerk of the Court or are available for public viewing at the Court's internet site - <http://www.cand.uscourts.gov>. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(a)(2), no more than ten depositions may be taken except by order of the Court. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 33(a) and Civil L.R. 33-3, no more than 25 interrogatories shall be propounded except pursuant to stipulation or order of the Court.

2. The parties shall meet and confer regarding their initial disclosures pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f) and shall make disclosures pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1)(E). The parties shall supplement their initial disclosures when required under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(e)(1).

3. Civil law and motion is heard on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Motions to compel may be noticed pursuant to Civil L. R. 7-2, without calling the Court. However, before the Court will

1  
2 consider a motion to compel a **joint** meet and conferral letter must be filed, as described in paragraph  
3 below.  
4

5. Prior to filing any discovery motion under Civil L. R. 7, or before requesting a telephonic  
6 discovery conference, counsel must meet and confer **in person** for the purpose of resolving all  
7 disclosure and/or discovery disputes. Thereafter, counsel shall draft and file a jointly signed letter  
8 which (1) attests that prior to filing the motion to compel the parties met and conferred **in person** on  
9 the unresolved discovery dispute; (2) sets forth the unresolved discovery dispute; and (3) states each  
10 party's position as supported by statutory and/or case law. Said joint letter shall be signed by both  
11 parties, shall be limited to five pages and may not be accompanied by exhibits or affidavits other than  
12 exact copies of disputed interrogatories, requests for production of documents and/or responses.

13. Generally, the Court will not consider a motion to compel. Instead, the parties shall file a joint  
14 meet and confer letter. In the event that counsel was unable to meet and confer with opposing  
15 counsel and/or party as directed above, counsel shall request in writing a telephonic discovery  
16 conference for the purpose of enforcing the Court's requirement to meet and confer or for the Court  
17 to fashion an alternative procedure which satisfies the meet and confer requirement. Counsel's written  
18 request shall state (1) three agreed upon prospective times and dates for the telephonic discovery  
19 conference to take place, (2) the anticipated length of the telephonic discovery conference, and (3)  
20 the phone numbers at which counsel shall be contacted on the day of the telephonic discovery  
21 conference. A copy of the written request shall be served on opposing counsel and/or party and  
22 verification of said service shall be submitted to the Court. Additionally, counsel shall file a declaration  
23 which states the attempt and reasons for the failure to meet and confer. Counsel may attach exhibits  
24 to support the declaration, but the declaration and exhibits combined may not exceed seven pages.  
25 The Court will not excuse a party from the requisite meet and conferral unless good cause is shown.  
26 Counsel's refusal to meet and confer without good cause shown will result in sanctions, pursuant to  
27 Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(f) and Civil L. R. 37-3.

28. **In all "E-Filing" cases, when filing papers that require the Court to take any action**  
**(e.g. motions, meet and confer letters, administrative requests), the parties shall, in addition**  
**to filing papers electronically, lodge with chambers a printed copy of the papers by the close**

1  
2       **of the next court day following the day the papers are filed electronically. These printed**  
3       **copies shall be marked "Chambers Copy" and shall be submitted to the Clerk's Office in an**  
4       **envelope clearly marked "Magistrate Judge Maria-Elena James", case number and "E-**  
5       **Filing Chambers Copy."** Parties shall not file a paper copy of any document with the Clerk's  
6       **Office that has already been filed electronically.**

7       Pursuant to Civil L. R. 37-1(b), in lieu of filing a formal motion, discovery conferences may be  
8       conducted telephonically. Parties shall request a telephonic discovery conference in writing which  
9       shall include (1) the joint meet and confer letter, as set forth above, (2) three agreed upon prospective  
10       times and dates for the telephonic discovery conference to take place, (3) the anticipated length of the  
11       telephonic discovery conference, and (4) the telephone numbers at which the parties shall be  
12       contacted on the day of the telephonic discovery conference. A copy of the written request shall be  
13       served on the opposing party or counsel and verification of said service shall be submitted to the  
14       Court.

15       The parties shall not telephone the Court to arrange a telephonic discovery conference without  
16       first sending the Court a written request for the telephonic discovery conference. The Court will not  
17       consider a written request for a telephonic discovery conference which is not accompanied by said  
18       joint meet and confer letter.

19       Upon approval, the Court shall contact the parties to inform them of the time and date of the  
20       telephonic discovery conference. Unless excused for good cause, the party requesting the telephonic  
21       discovery conference shall arrange the conference call on the date and time ordered by the Court.

22       8. In the event that the parties are participating in a deposition or a site inspection and a  
23       discovery dispute arises regarding the deposition and/or site inspection, the parties may contact Judge  
24       James' Courtroom Deputy, Brenda Tolbert, at 415-522-4708, to inquire whether Judge James' is  
25       available to resolve the parties' impending dispute telephonically. In the event that Judge James is not  
26       available or the parties are unable to contact Judge James' Courtroom Deputy for any reason, the  
27       parties shall follow the procedures set forth in paragraph 6 above.

28       9. In the event that a matter is to be taken off calender, or continued to a further date, a written  
29       stipulation signed by the parties shall be submitted to the Court for approval; said stipulation must be

1  
2 received by the Court at least five business days prior to the scheduled hearing date.  
3

4 10. Other than scheduling matters, pursuant to Civil L. R. 11-4(c), a party shall not contact the  
5 Court *ex parte* without prior notice to opposing party. All communications or questions to the Court  
6 shall be presented to the Court in writing. Parties must certify to the Court that all parties were faxed  
7 or mailed a copy of the written communication. Unless expressly requested by the Court, documents  
8 should not be faxed to chambers but should be filed or lodged in accordance with the Local Rules of  
Court.

9 11. Parties shall not mail or fax to the Court copies of correspondence from a party regarding any  
10 dispute pending before the Court.

11 12. Parties have a continuing duty to supplement the initial disclosures when required under Fed.  
12 R. Civ. P. 26(e)(1).

13 13. Motions for sanctions shall be filed separately, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 37 and Civil L. R.  
14 37-3. Any party seeking an award of attorney's fees or other expenses in connection with a motion  
15 shall file a declaration with the opposition or reply memorandum which itemizes with particularity the  
16 fees and expenses claimed.

17 The failure of a party to abide by Judge James' Discovery and Disclosure Dispute Procedures  
18 may result in sanctions, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(f).

19  
20 IT IS SO ORDERED.

21 DATED: December 13, 2002

22  
23 MARIA-ELENA JAMES  
United States Magistrate Judge